

Goodsell C. C.

Salem, Dec. 11, 1877.

My dear Sir:

In the course of my labors on the Laws of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, I have come to the act of 1754, entitled "An Act to prevent damage to English grain, arising from barberry-bushes."

Under that act a wholesale attack was ordered upon these bushes everywhere throughout the Province.

The preamble recites that "whereas
"it has been found by experience that the
"blasting of wheat and other English grain
"is often occasioned by barberry-bushes"
and thereupon the act proceeds to order the extirpation of these obnoxious plants "on or before June 1760."

I should like very much to know the latest opinions of scientific botanists on the question of the supposed injurious

the
effect of ^{the} barberry upon grain, &c., in order
to incorporate it in my notes to that
chapter.

Could I so far trespass upon your
time as to get from you some light upon
this subject, with permission to
use it as above?

I am very truly,
Yours
A. Goodell.

Dr. Asa Gray,
Cambridge,
Mass.